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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULT Bureau of Agricultural Economics Division of Cotton Marketing

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COTTON GRADE AND STAPLE REPORTS FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 7%

The cotton harvesting stason this year was unusually early in the Southeastern States which makes it necessary to conclude today releasing weekly grade and staple reports for South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Final weekly reports for Georgia, Alabama, and Florida were released last week

Several important changes were reported in grades over the past week with staple lengths practically unchanged. The proportion of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton increased sharply, especially in South Carolina; also, White Middling and better grades showed a large decrease. South Carolina again showing the largest decrease. For the season to date North Carolina and Virginia produced White Middling and better grades of 64 and 62 percent, respectively, as compared with 52 percent in South Carolina. The proportion of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton produced to date in South Carolina was 36 percent with about 25 percent in each Forth Carolina and Virginia. South Carolina for the season was shown as leading in the production of 1 inch and longer staple lengths with 35 percent, North Carolina 25 percent, and Virginia about 2 percent. The untenderable cotton produced to date was approximately 2 percent in South Carolina, 4 percent in North Carolina, and 5 percent in Virginia.

South Carolina. - The cotton grade and staple Districts of South Carolina are: 1. Blue Ridge and Piedmont area; 2. Sand and Clay Hills; 3. Sandy Coastal Plains; 4. Flatwoods. For the season to date the proportion of White Middling and better grades ranged from approximately 71 percent in District 2 to 20 percent in District 4. For the grades White Strict Low Middling and below, District 4 reported the largest proportion with 32 percent, while District 1 reported the smallest amount with only 4 percent. The range in the production of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton was from 52 percent in District 1 to 15 percent in District 3. For the same grades District 4 reported 48 percent and District 2 reported 18 percent.

The largest proportion of untenderable cotton produced was in District 4 with 6 percent, while each of the other Districts reported 2 percent. District 4 and 1 produced the larest percentage of 7/8 and 29/32 inch stuples with 55 and 43 percent, respectively, whereas District 2 reported only 14 percent. District 1 was the leading producer of 15/16 and 31/32 inch stuples with 35 percent as compared with 22 percent in District 2. District 2, however, was the leading producer of the stuple lengths 1 inch and longer with 63 percent as compared with 49 percent in District 3 and 21 percent in District 1 and 15 percent in District 4.

North Carolina. - The Districts of North Carolina are: 1.

Blue Ridge and Piedmont area; 2. Slate area; 3. Coastal Plains; 4.

Fl. twoods. To date this season, District 2 produced the largest proportion of White Middling and better grades with about 86 percent, followed by District 1 with 68 percent, District 3 with 59 percent, and District 4 with 43 percent. For the grades White Strict Low Middling and below, Districts 4 and 3 reported the largest proportions with 33 percent and 11 percent, respectively, while the other two Districts, 1 and 2 reported much smaller proportions. The largest

proportions of Spotted and Yellow Tinged cotton were found in Districts 3, 1, and 4 with about 25 p reent each, whereas District 2 showed the small amount of only 9 percent.

A small proportion of untenderable cotton was produced in all Districts this season with Districts 3 and 4 representing the areas with the largest proportions of about 5 percent each, as compared with 3 percent in District 1 and only 1 percent in District 2. The range in the production of 7/8 and 29/32 inch staples was from 55 percent in District 4 to 31 percent in District 2; and, in 15/16 and 31/32 inch staples was from about 30 percent each in Districts 1 and 4 to 42 percent in District 2. Districts 2 and 3 produced the largest proportions of 1 inch and 1-1/32 inch staples in the State with 23 percent each, followed by District 1 with 19 percent, and District 4 with about 8 percent. The production of the lengths 1-1/16 inches and longer was fairly evenly produced over the State with 4.4 percent in District 3 as against 3.1 percent in District 4.

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